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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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September 17, 2013

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Ambassador Samantha Power
Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Power:

Amir Hekmati, a former U.S. Marine and one of my constituents, has been imprisoned in Iran for now over two years. President Hassan Rouhani and an Iranian delegation are scheduled to visit the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly later in the month. During their visit, I ask that you engage your colleagues that have diplomatic relations with Iran to examine all opportunities to facilitate Mr. Hekmati's release.

After serving honorably in the military, Mr. Hekmati traveled to Iran in August of 2011 to visit his grandmother for the first time. During this visit, he was detained and accused of being a U.S. spy, allegations the U.S. vehemently denies. Moreover, Mr. Hekmati's father, who lives in Flint, Mich., was recently diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Thus, it is imperative that Mr. Hekmati be reunited with his family so that as the eldest son, he can return to Michigan to care for his ailing father, mother and sisters during this difficult time.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is aware of Mr. Hekmati's detention and many members of Congress have been following the situation closely. In July, I sent a letter to Secretary Kerry regarding Mr. Hekmati that was signed by 111 other Members of Congress. We were pleased when Secretary Kerry issued a statement in August calling for Mr. Hekmati's release, and it appears that the upcoming U.N. General Assembly meeting presents a particularly auspicious opportunity.

During the proceedings, I ask that you explore all available opportunities to raise Mr. Hekmati's case with your colleagues at the U.N. that maintain diplomatic relations with Iran. I am optimistic that we can facilitate a humanitarian resolution and reunite Mr. Hekmati with his father, mother and sisters soon.

Sincerely,

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry